150 DETAINED IN RUSSIAN PROTESTS, PG 7

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Celebrity Buzz

Tara Reid checks into rehab
pg 18

Babies to be born into SIN

APPLICATIONS Alberta parents of newborn babies can now fill out a single application form to both register their child's birth and to apply for their child's social insurance number.

After the birth registration form is completed, the information will be sent electronically to Service Canada where a SIN will be issued within 15 business days at no cost to parents, says Service Alberta Minister Heather Klimchuck.

The provincial government says it receives 50,000 birth registrations each year.

METRO CALGARY

Canada pg 6

Soldiers mourned

Sports pg 13

Dallas puts boots to Avery

Workology pg 15

Invading NASA's space

ShareYourViews
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ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Amber Birnie, 28, hates that it's this cold and can't wait for the weather to be a little more bearable than the -35 C with wind chill that Calgary was experiencing yesterday. No reprieve from the cold is expected until the end of the week.

City deep freeze hampers drivers

Slippery roads, frozen batteries plague Calgary motorists

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Dave Sharp drives the city back and forth for his job as a painter. If the city's road crews are out, he says he hasn't noticed it.

"I am not sure if I have seen many road plowers out; it just seems like they put gravel on the roads after, and they don't even seem to use enough," the 23-year-old said.

As for the new anti-icing agent the city said would improve driving conditions in a snow storm, Sharp hasn't noticed a difference.

Kelsey Strachan, city roads spokesperson, said the city started the program just a month ago and the only times the city used the agent were "successful."

"People would notice a difference if they knew what roads it was applied to. We only used it on certain routes," she said, adding motorists should have noticed the difference on Glenmore and 14 streets.

The agent will only prevent ice in temperatures up to -20 C, so motorists should still practise safe driving habits, Strachan added.

Besides road conditions, motorists across the city were having problems starting their vehicles, including 28-year-old Julia Moone.

"I don't have a problem with the roads; I just can't get my car started. The weird thing is I had it plugged in but maybe it isn't working," she said.

Busy tow-truck companies were proof the -35 C with wind-chill weather yesterday was too much for city vehicles.

"It has been nonstop. Every time we get a cold snap like this, our switchboard lights up," said A1 Towing's Paul Bhullar, noting at least 90 boost requests.

Accidents

• Since Friday afternoon when the storm hit Calgary, police responded to hundreds of accidents but luckily very few with injuries.

Man found dead in vehicle

FATALITY Few details were being released on what appeared to be Calgary's 32nd homicide this year after a young man was found dead in the driver's seat of a car in the city's deep-south yesterday morning.

Police had cordoned off the 5300 block of 146 Avenue SE, surrounded by acreages of snow-covered land and trees and warned against travelling through the fields for a better look.

Police were called to the scene around 3:45 a.m. with reports of an abandoned car parked on the side of the road and when they arrived, they found a young man dead in the driver's seat.

Police were calling the death "suspicious." Insp. Rob Williams wouldn't elaborate on what that meant, only that the homicide unit had been called in to investigate and were combing the area for evidence.

"We're staying pretty tight-lipped about this right now," said Williams. "We're still waiting for the medical examiner's office to determine the cause of death and we're pretty limited in what we're able to release."

More information should be forthcoming today after an autopsy, which is scheduled to be completed this morning.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

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Steinke sentence to be handed down today
Jeremy Steinke, facing an automatic life sentence with no parole eligibility for 25 years, will be officially sentenced today in Medicine Hat. Steinke was found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder at his trial in Calgary. METRO CALGARY

Local

Sting Ray exhibit reopening

The Calgary Zoo will be reopening its Cow Nose Sting Ray exhibit after 41 inexplicably died last summer. While test results couldn't confirm what wiped out most of the previous exhibit, a shipment of new rays has arrived from Florida. Zoo officials will be bringing more into the newly established exhibit over the coming months. METRO CALGARY

Victim driven to hospital by his alleged attacker

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

STABBING INCIDENT A man is recovering in hospital after being stabbed in the neck and the driven to hospital by his alleged attacker.

The incident happened around 9 p.m. Saturday night in the 1400 block of 16 A Street NE after two men, police believed to be roommates, returned home from a bar after a dispute.

"We can't say for sure yet if the friend or roommate was the one who stabbed him, but he drove him to the hospital. He is being questioned but nobody was charged yet," Duty Insp. Rob Williams said.

Earlier in a media release, police said they took the man who drove the victim to Peter Lougheed Hospital in for questioning, but that the quick actions may have actually saved the victim's life.

Finding passion in Africa

Calgary woman returns from six-week tour in Malawi

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

It was a phenomenal learning experience.

A Calgary woman in her fourth year of a five-year orthopedic residency has returned from a six-week tour in Malawi with her husband, which she says "re-ignited her passion of orthopedics."

"I don't look at is as, 'Oh, those poor people,' but I learned a lot from there. The real heroes in Malawi are the African doctors," the 28-year-old Carrie Kollias said.

Kollias lives in Calgary with her husband and while finishing her residency has travelled to developing countries numerous times, and each time she takes something back with her.

"They are very full of love for their community and it's a refreshing pace, compared to Calgary. Africa changes you," she added.

SUBMITTED

Calgary orthopedic doctor Carrie Kollias recently returned from a six-week teaching trip to Malawi, where she instructed Malawian doctors on surgeries.

Kollias teamed up with CURE International Hospital to teach Malawian students how to perform surgeries and conduct outpatient clinics.

"I think CURE is a wonderful organization and I really enjoy working with them, and they really give a lot of attention and care to the kids."

Kollias even changed her specialty from adult shoulder surgery to pediatric orthopedic surgery when she returned from her trip.

Every year, CURE International sponsors various short-term volunteer trips for medical professionals and other individuals to its 10 hospitals throughout the developing world.

"They are very full of love for their community and it's a refreshing pace, compared to Calgary. Africa changes you."
Carrie Kollias

City to explore self-sufficiency

REPORT City council will discuss an operational self-sufficiency report today, and among the report's suggestions is a $30 car tax which would bring about $25 million into city coffers annually.

Council is expected to push administration to continue examining the available options, including pressuring the provincial government to vacate its portion of property taxes. METRO CALGARY

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What's online today.

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Saturday, Dec. 13
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These results are not official.

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Police making headway in homicide case

Calgary police say they are making progress in the city's 31st homicide of the year. Steve Chiasson, 22, was killed after an altercation outside a bar. Police continue to interview witnesses. METRO CALGARY

News in brief

RECREATION Cash is there for the taking, but city council will determine today how Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding for Calgary's recreation needs are doled out. Under new provincial MSI funding guidelines, projects involving facility upgrades or enhancements will have to be $715,000 or more.

LAND USE Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart is bringing a motion before council today to explore whether the city can buy Shaw-Nee Slopes golf course in the city's southwest. The motion discusses whether the city can use municipal, provincial and private funds to purchase the land for a city-use facility.

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Changed 5 changes lives

NEIL MACKINNON
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

NEIL MACKINNON / METRO CALGARY

Ann Wilson credits the Mustard Seed and its Changed 5 program for helping her recover from a stroke that not only altered her physically, but left her homeless.

Ann Wilson walks with a cane now and she drools a bit from the corner of her mouth when she eats.

A stroke changed Wilson, 53, physically, but also left her homeless. The man she was living with had a drug problem, and got them kicked out of their home.

A program at Mustard Seed's southeast shelter, Changed 5, is helping Wilson get back on her feet, and her prospects of living on her own permanently have never been better.

"If I had been anywhere but here, I never would have gotten the help I have," she said. "I came here with nothing, not even an understanding of how to get through this and the support, the sense of family, is unbelievable."

The Seed staff feels like they've found part of the cure for homelessness with their Changed 5 program, which began informally a year ago and has been refined to help set life goals and strategies to get off the streets for good.

"We really want to try and help people move forward so that next winter, they're not in a shelter anymore, they have a job and a house," said Mustard Seed managing director Steve Griffin.

About 170 people have been managed through the program, and 100 in the last two months have moved out of the shelter and into independent-living situations or wider treatment programs.

"Finding someone an apartment and a full-time job isn't going to end homelessness," said transition services assistant manager Jennifer White.

"We're not interested in warehousing people, we want to help them become whole again."

New Lib leader can't go far left: Analyst

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

Alberta's new Liberal leader will have to focus on keeping the party from shifting too left in order to woo voters away from picking a Conservative party that has had a strong grip in the province for decades, says a political analyst.

David Swann, a Calgary doctor and a former medical health officer from Medicine Hat, was announced as the new leader for the financially strapped party Saturday night, replacing Kevin Taft.

David Swann

The overwhelming majority of the party supporters who chose Swann as their leader want the Liberals to focus their attention on Alberta's changing healthcare system, along with plans to green up the environment, says Chaldeans Mensah, a political scientist at Grant MacEwan.

"However, Swann himself has recognized that it's very important to maintain a centrist stance in trying to bring all people from all over the electorate into the party," said Mensah.

Mensah says the party needs to make "sustained growth" in order show any challenge to the Tories.

In recent years, a few provincial ridings in Calgary have slowly turned Liberal red in a city that has historically been Tory blue.

Animal shelter fire destroys trailer

FLAMES A trailer home in the city's southeast was destroyed by a fire Saturday night.

The fire broke out around 7 p.m. at a trailer park located in the 6200 block of 17th Avenue SE.

When crews arrived, they found two puppies nearby. Firefighters believe the fire started at a nearby animal shelter and spread to the trailer. METRO CALGARY

Crews tackle fire, ice during blaze

COLD Firefighters battled extreme cold alongside a house fire late Saturday night, trying to ensure their water lines didn't freeze as they worked.

Crews were called to a fire in the 2100 block of Douglasbank Crescent SE and found smoke pouring out of a two-storey home

The house was under renovation, and nobody was home. METRO CALGARY

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CEO killed at company Chistmas party

Vancouver police have identified the victim of Friday night's shooting at a company Christmas party as Benjamin Banky, 40, the CEO of TallGrass Distributors Ltd. Police say Banky was killed after a former employee walked into the party and opened fire at approximately 4 p.m. PT. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Tories widen lead

The federal Conservatives led by Stephen Harper, left, would win a strong majority in Parliament if elections were held today, according to a poll showing the new leader of the Opposition Liberals has done little to boost public support. Canadians favour the Conservatives over the Liberals by 45 per cent to 26 per cent, an Ipsos Reid poll showed. The NDP had the backing of 12 per cent. REUTERS

News in brief

OLYMPICS Gregor Robertson, Vancouver's new mayor, has appointed an external auditor to review the financial arrangements between the City of Vancouver and the developers of the Olympic Village. KPMG has been asked to examine the decision by the previous council to give a $100-million loan guarantee to Millennium Development.

QUEBEC A law requiring cars to have snow tires comes into effect today. The law is the first of its kind in Canada, and violators face a fine of $300.

HALIFAX Aaron Gregory Marriott, 18, is facing three attempted murder charges after firing at one man three separate times — once outside a children's hospital. The shootings are believed to be part of an ongoing drug war. **METRO CANADA**

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Families, country mourn heroes

With a nephew killed in Afghanistan and a son headed for the same war, a grieving and frustrated Russell Higgins says Canadian soldiers are wasted on a foolish mission.

Reached at his home yesterday in Upper Musquodoboit, N.S., Higgins said, "I don't figure our boys should be over there to start with. It's a fight that can't be won. They have been doing the same thing over there since the Crusades. You can't win a war against people that don't mind dying."

Higgins' nephew Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton was one of three Canadians killed Saturday by a roadside bomb. Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin and Pte. Justin Peter Jones also died.

The deaths came eight days after Cpl. Mark McLaren, Warrant Officer Robert Wilson and Pte. Demetrios Diplaros died when their armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on the same stretch of highway.

Canada's death toll from the Afghanistan mission now stands at 103 soldiers and one diplomat. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

VIDEO First priority for military is taking care of victims' families at metronews.ca/canada

Vancouver **Rare snow**

ANDY CLARK/REUTERS

A statue is covered after an overnight snow fall in Vancouver yesterday. Famous for its winter rain, the city had about 10 centimetres of snow on the ground.

Investigate alleged abuse of Afghan boys, lawyer urges

MILITARY The International Criminal Court should launch its own investigation into allegations some Canadian officers serving in Afghanistan told subordinates to look the other way when Afghan soldiers and local interpreters sodomized young boys, says one of Canada's leading human-rights lawyers.

University of British Columbia international law and politics expert Michael Byers, who was among of a group of academics who sought to have former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet detained as a war criminal, said he plans to ask the ICC to begin its own inquiry into the charges.

'Cultural'

• Other Canadian soldiers have complained that officers told them not to get involved because sodomy was tantamount to "cultural differences."

In a story published yesterday by a Toronto newspaper, former Canadian soldier Tyrel Braaten said during his tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2006, he witnessed Afghan interpreters bringing young boys inside buildings at Forward Operating Base Wilson, a remote Canadian base outside Kandahar. The boys were then sodomized by the interpreters and Afghan soldiers, Braaten said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Experts gain insight from rats with hearing defects
Scientists have managed to train rats with hearing defects to pick out sounds from background noise, giving a possible solution to hearing-impaired children with difficulties in learning language. REUTERS

World

"The time has come for action, not words."
British Prime Minister Gordon Brown

Brit PM speaks out

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown blamed Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba for last month's deadly Mumbai attacks, and he called for a new British-Pakistan "pact against terror." REUTERS

Russian police quell protests

Kremlin protests over economy blocked, 150 detained

Police yesterday blocked Kremlin opponents from holding unlicensed marches in Russia's two main cities over the economic crisis, witnesses said, and detained more than 150 activists.

ALEXANDER DEMIANCHUK/REUTERS

People wear face masks with the word "censorship" during a protest in St. Petersburg yesterday.

Marches of discontent have become a trademark protest by a coalition of small opposition groups from liberals to communists, led by former world chess champion Garry Kasparov and writer Eduard Limonov, the head of outlawed National-Bolshevik party.

Witnesses said that police trucks sealed off two squares in central Moscow, where the other Russia coalition wanted to start its march. Police cordons prevented a handful of opposition supporters from entering the squares.

Police detained two dozen elderly Soviet officers at Pushkinskaya square and several opposition activists, including Limonov, at Triumfalnaya Square two kilometres away.

Fewer than 500 protesters later turned up at the Chernyshevsky Square chanting: "No to police state!" and "Authorities, answer for the crisis!" The rally lasted for an hour and ended peacefully.

Russian news agencies said more than 150 activists were detained in Moscow and St Petersburg altogether. REUTERS

Iraqi reporter hurls shoe at Bush, calls him a dog

An Iraqi reporter called visiting U.S. President George W. Bush a "dog" in Arabic yesterday and threw his shoes at him during a news conference in Baghdad.

Iraqi security officers and U.S. secret service agents leapt at the man and dragged him struggling and screaming out of the room where Bush was giving a news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

The shoes missed their target about 4½ metres away.

Bush, who went to Afghanistan after his visit in Iraq, made light of it.

"I didn't feel the least threatened by it," he said.

VIDEO George W. Bush's artful dodge of shoes hurled at him by an Iraqi at metronews.ca/world

Greek gov't under fire for violent riots

UNREST A week of violence in Greece has taken its toll on the fragile conservative government, with opinion polls showing yesterday many think authorities mishandled the worst rioting in decades. For the most part, the violence has generally subsided. REUTERS

News in brief

INJURIES Dozens of people in Hong Kong were hurt after two bottles of an acidic liquid were dropped from a building into a busy commercial district on Saturday.

SCANDAL Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich will not resign today, but pressure to do so continued to grow on the governor to step aside. REUTERS

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Australia agrees to carbon trade start
Australia today committed to start the most sweeping carbon trade scheme outside Europe in mid-2010. REUTERS

Obama will pick energy team

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, who has vowed to adopt an aggressive approach to global warming and the environment, will hold a news conference today to announce his picks to lead the effort.

Obama will hold a news conference at 5 p.m. to talk about "the nation's energy and environmental future," his transition office said yesterday.

At the news conference Obama is expected to name Nobel physics laureate Steven Chu as his energy secretary and former Environmental Protection Agency chief Carol Browner as the head of a new council that will co-ordinate White House policy on energy, climate and environment, Democratic sources have said.

Obama is also expected to announce he has chosen Lisa Jackson, the chief of staff for New Jersey's governor, to run the EPA and Nancy Sutley, a deputy mayor of Los Angeles, as head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. REUTERS

Green jobs

- Obama has said that he wants to spend billions of dollars to promote alternative energy sources and create millions of green energy jobs.

Portugal **Jingle all the way**

NACHO DOCE/REUTERS

More than 14,000 people dressed as Santa Clauses paraded in Porto yesterday to try to set a new world record for the largest gathering of Santas and raise money for charity.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Coalition of thoughts

HineSight

Anne Hines

This morning, my friend, Rob, called. Our conversation went something like this:

Rob: Hi, am I interrupting anything?

Me: I'm writing.

Rob: Good, I thought you might be busy. Something alarming's happened.

This could mean either No. 1, beer's gone up a cent a bottle, or No. 2, Rob's started dating again.

Rob: I'm worried about what's happening with our government.

It's No. 2. My friend Rob is a dear, sweet, clueless man who feels the way to a woman's heart is to agree with everything she says. Works for me.

Me: What happened to the vegan you were seeing?

Rob: She complained about the restaurant I'd picked so I suggested we just go forage for nuts and berries in the park.

Me: Where did you want to take her?

Rob: The Keg. They've got lettuce. I think. Anyway, I went out with this woman who says if this coalition government takes over, it's going to be very bad for kids.

Me: Because third graders will have to learn to spell Ignatieff?

Rob: Plus, it will show that the government of this country can be replaced at any time. You know what that's called?

Me: I'll go out on a limb here … democracy?

Rob: No, no, chaos.

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference.

Rob: So she says what we have to do is invade Quebec.

I pause. I figure there are two possible responses. No. 1, "You had fewer nuts with the vegan," or No. 2, "Uh … what?" I opt for No. 2.

Rob: We must attack. Shut down Quebec's ability to have a say in government.

Me: This is about you wanting to wear your Halloween combat costume again, isn't it?

Rob: No. Not entirely.

Me: So, she wants to protect Canada by denying rights to Canadians? There's a word for that.

Rob: Decisive?

Me: OK … or maybe, "insane."

Rob: She says if we don't deal with Quebec, other groups may start thinking they can hang onto their language and traditions. Canada could become multicultural.

Me: It is.

Rob: Oh … right.

Me: Sweetie, get some information and think this through for yourself. You can still wear the costume. But maybe just around the house. Any other dates lined up?

Rob: Tonight I'm going to a séance with a woman who thinks spirits should be allowed to vote.

Tomorrow, I'm just not answering the phone.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Take the time, spend the money, use a scraper

InTransit

Chris Phalen

calgaryletters@metronews.ca

I was on my way to work after Calgary's first of many unpredictable torrid dumps of frosty glory last Monday and had a moment of nostalgia in the conversely predictable traffic jam jarring 9th Avenue around 8:15 a.m.

I pulled up to a red light, goose-necked left, leaned forward and saw a man in a Honda Civic frantically scraping the inside of his windshield, causing a small scale rime-storm inside his car; a consequential effect of not having the time to warm up his car, no doubt.

He would hunker down and dodge around like he was avoiding punches in an attempt get the best view possible. He seemed content with his visibility and continued to negotiate rush hour traffic using his four-by-four-inch windshield clearance.

I had to giggle. I have a friend who drove a 1966 Chevrolet Impala in high school, and I remember cruising around in the dead of Saskatchewan winter after winter, watching and helping him perpetually scrape the inside of his windshield with the approved tool of choice — the container of a cassette tape.

Yes, a cassette tape: Archaic and apparently diverse.

Granted, a '66 Impala isn't as equipped with today's auto efficiencies, but after the wistfulness of observing this mad scraper wore off, I couldn't help but think of the imposed danger — especially in Calgary.

Not to beget any philosophical undertones and please excuse what may seem like reaching, but failure to properly clear your window, or wait for your car to warm up, could be a significant comment on the rat race culture of Cowtown.

Or, to skip the profundity, maybe it was just pure laziness.

But it is worth asking: Is our deadline-oriented culture of time equals money worth battling it out on the Deerfoot with a dinner-plate sized view of the barrelling traffic and perpetual spraying of slush and snow barraging your car?

There is a charging section for driving a motor vehicle while unsafe due to obscured view through windshield/windows. In 2008 to date, there have been 165 tickets issued according to city police records. So, while not a big chunk of the traffic section's total summonses issued, it is used but probably not enough.

But this responsibility of simple winter safety falls on us, the citizen driver.

Spend three bucks on a scraper and use it.

Chris Phalen is a web intern and regular contributor to Avenue magazine. He has also contributed to the Prince Albert Daily Herald, Globe and Mail and various magazines.

Letters

Women deserve a larger role in Canadian politics

Recent letters have expressed a sense of pride that more women are becoming involved in Canadian political discussions.

As a young female and recent political science undergraduate, I would like to suggest maybe it is not female Canadians that are uninterested in politics, but maybe those who are interested do not feel they are offered a fair chance to contribute.

I believe senior level Canadian government roles are mainly held by male employees — causing women to feel stifled and ignored when it comes to government discussions. Just as the boys would dominate the field in gym class, I feel men have dominated the House of Commons. If you gave us more of a chance to hold the ball, maybe we could have more of a chance to score.

AMINI KHANNA,
NORTH YORK, ONT.

Dion offers 'priceless' moment in Canadian politics

I'm sorry the Liberal party is getting rid of Stéphane Dion. I'm going to miss this entertaining Inspector Clouseau of Canadian politics.

During the most important TV address of his life to ask the Canadian people to make him the prime minister, I thought I saw a book behind Dion's right shoulder titled Hot Air. It was priceless.

CHRIS ROBERSTON,
STONEY CREEK

Feels like the sky is falling for baby boom generation

Re: Blame the Boomers (Dec. 3). I think we've taken a very generalized approach to this generational argument. Being a product of the baby boom generation, it's certainly difficult not to be a little jaded.

I have witnessed my parents work their lives away, push their stress and relationship levels to incredible limits.

With the current economic downturn and lifetime earnings being flushed down the gutter, it's difficult to imagine myself following such an unrewarding and predictable path.

We're a generation that was told the sky is the limit. It didn't take me long to realize that was all a lie.

PETER REYNOLDS,
RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Federal, Ontario governments reach auto deal
The federal government and Ontario have reached a deal to offer proportional funds to Canada's auto industry if a proposed aid package is approved in Washington, Industry Minister Tony Clement said. Clement said the proposed aid to Canada's ailing auto sector would amount to approximately 20 per cent of the U.S. proposal. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Business

China eyes money-supply growth

China aims to increase its money supply by 17 per cent in 2009, the cabinet said, as it unveiled a broad blueprint for easing financial conditions to help oil the wheels of the world's fourth-largest economy. This follows a pledge by the top leadership last week to take measures to stimulate domestic demand as the economy slows, and comes on the heels of a 4-trillion yuan ($586 billion US) stimulus package announced last month. REUTERS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Autoparts makers on edge

Shares of Canadian autoparts makers have taken a beating due to the decline in the U.S. auto sector, but the companies will face a much harsher reality if one or more of the Detroit Three is allowed to fail.

Parts companies already run on razor-thin margins, and a bankruptcy of one of the big automakers would mean suppliers would not be paid. That would lead to a catastrophic chain reaction that would ripple through the industry, said Linda Hasenfratz, president and chief executive of Linamar Corp.

"You are looking at shutting down the entire automotive industry in North America," she said.

"You are looking at shutting down the entire automotive industry in North America."
Linda Hasenfratz

More than 65 per cent of suppliers to Ford, GM and Chrysler also supply Toyota Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co., so even the offshore-based manufacturers would be hard hit.

Worries of a bankruptcy of one or all of the Detroit Three are reflected in Linamar's share price, which is down 79 per cent since the beginning of the year. At $4.20, it is now on the verge of being removed from the S&P/TSX composite index due to failure to meet listing requirements, which include maintaining a certain level of market capitalization and volume.

No Canadian autoparts manufacturer has escaped being clobbered this year. Magna International Inc.'s stock is down 56 per cent at $35.76, and Martinrea International Inc. is down 84 per cent at $1.94.

Thirty-five per cent of Linamar's sales go to the Detroit Three, according to RBC Capital Markets. For Magna, that number jumps to 52 per cent, and it's about 80 per cent for Martinrea. REUTERS

No auto bailout 'for a while': White House

AID The White House said it did not expect any announcement on an auto industry rescue plan before President George W. Bush returns to the United States from an unannounced trip to Iraq.

"I don't anticipate anything before we return ... I just don't expect anything for a while," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said while aboard Air Force One.

She was responding to a reporter's question on whether an announcent would be made during Bush's trip on whether the administration would tap a $700 billion US financial-industry bailout fund to aid Detroit's ailing Big Three automakers: General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

Perino said she had no timetable for such a decision. REUTERS

Philippines Ho, ho, ho, hee, hee

CHERYL RAVELO/REUTERS

An orangutan wearing a Santa Claus outfit interacts with zoo visitors for a promotional event for the Christmas holiday season at Malabon Zoo in Manila yesterday.

U.S. real estate to start recovery by spring: Zell

PROPERTY A revival in the U.S. real estate market should begin by next spring, property mogul Sam Zell told an Israeli business conference yesterday.

"I believe ... we will see the first signs of equilibrium in the housing market in the spring of 2009," Zell said.

Zell said that with the U.S. population continuing to grow and with fewer than 600,000 building starts in 2008, more than a million fewer than in each of the past 10 years, demand for houses would soon rise.

Zell is the owner of Tribune Co., publisher of the Chicago Tribune, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last week. REUTERS

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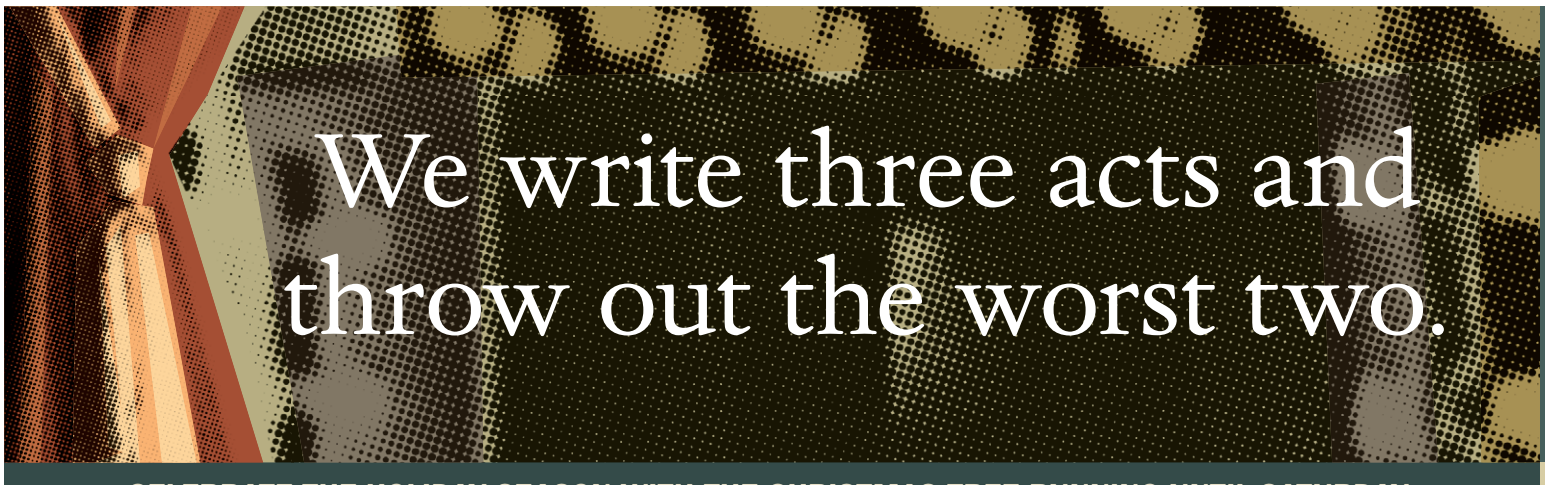

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One Million Acts of Green hits halfway point
The One Million Acts of Green recently marked a significant milestone, surpassing 500,000 acts of green registered online at www.onemillionactsofgreen.com. This represents a reduction of approximately 25,000,000 kilograms of greenhouse gases. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

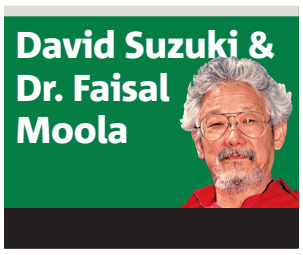
Energy-saving tips

With government rebates for programmable thermostats, you could save almost a $100 per year on heating costs, according to Direct Energy. And don't forget your furnace — an annual maintenance and cleaning can extend the life of a furnace by several years and prevent untimely breakdowns this holiday season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

The trouble with Alberta's tarsands

ScienceMatters



If you want to be scared, you don't need to watch a horror movie or read the latest Stephen King best-seller.

Real terror can be found by simply firing up Google Earth. By mousing over and zooming in, you can see what Alberta's tarsands look like from space.

It is not a pretty sight. In fact, it's scary — and for good reason.

A recent book by celebrated journalist Andrew Nikiforuk, Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent (published by Greystone Books and the David Suzuki Foundation), explores what these grey spots on Google Earth mean to Canada's environment and economy. It's an important book, one that every Canadian should read to find out how the world's largest energy project will affect us.

The scale of the Alberta tarsands project is unprecedented in Canadian history. Alberta's "blue-eyed sheiks," as the oil-industry elite are known, stand to make billions of dollars from carving up northern Alberta in order to meet U.S. demand for oil. But these dollars pale in comparison to the environmental value that is being squandered at the expense of petro dollars.

Canada has been blessed. But instead of safeguarding this resource, we are using it up. And we are creating an environmental catastrophe that will take centuries to recover from ... if we recover at all.

The main tarsands deposits are at three sites in Alberta: Peace River, Cold Lake and Athabasca. The Athabasca region contains the largest deposit of crude bitumen in the world.

All this bitumen, a complex mixture of molecules from prehistoric life, is a geological miracle with which Canada has been blessed. But instead of safeguarding this resource, we are using it up. And we are creating an environmental catastrophe that will take centuries to recover from ... if we recover at all.

It's estimated that two tonnes of earth must be excavated to produce one barrel of thick tar-like bitumen. And it requires as much as three barrels of fresh water from the Athabasca River to make one barrel of bitumen. It also takes a huge amount of energy to extract the oil from the sands.

Now think about this: Each day Canada exports one million barrels of bitumen to the United States.

With all the money being made from the tarsands, very little of it seems to be reinvested in renewable energy that comes from wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal sources. If anything, we could be investing this money in low-carbon projects so we won't have to pull every bit of bitumen from the ground.

When my children were younger, they'd often ask me about the bogeyman. But maybe the bogeyman isn't some scary creature. Maybe the bogeyman is simply a man in a suit trying to satisfy his shareholders, make a profit, and cosy up to federal politicians so he can continue doing his work without having to answer to his environmental crimes.

Or maybe there's something more frightening to consider. Perhaps the bogeyman is us — the public that places the short-term economic value of the tarsands above the priceless value of our environment and our health.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

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Nesbitt captures gold
Canada's Christine Nesbitt won the women's 1,000-metre yesterday at a World Cup long-track speedskating meet in Japan. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Morison wins Giant Slalom

Matthew Morison, left, of Burketon, Ont., won the Giant Slalom event at the FIS World Cup snowboarding stop in Italy yesterday. Morison beat France's Sylvain Dufour, while Canadian teammate Jasey Jay Anderson finished third. On the women's side, Doris Guenther of Austria won gold just ahead of Calgary's Kimiko Zakreski. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

NBA RESULT

Hornets 99 **Raptors** 91

Chris Paul notched his 17th double-double of the year with 12 points and 12 assists to lead the Hornets in a 99-91 victory in Toronto yesterday.

David West poured in 29 points and grabbed nine rebounds for New Orleans, which has won four of its last five games and eight of 10. Chris Bosh tallied 25 points, grabbed eight boards and dished out six helpers in defeat.

"We're still a good team, we just have to get it consistent again," said Bosh.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

RODEO Nanton's Lindsay Sears earned an event-high prize at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas yesterday. Sears clinched her first title during round eight, and placed fifth in 13.90 for round 10. She earned an event-high $139,002 at the NFR and a season-record $323,569.

SKIING For the second time in three days, Kelly McBroom of Canmore grabbed second spot in a Northwest Funds Coupe Nor-Am Cup super G. McBroom, finished second yesterday in a time of one minute 14.72 seconds at Invermere, BC. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 13 Tampa Bay 10 (OT)
Carolina 30 Denver 10
Cincinnati 20 Washington 13
Houston 13 Tennessee 12
Indianapolis 31 Detroit 21
Jacksonville 20 Green Bay 16
Miami 14 San Francisco 9
Minnesota 35 Arizona 14
New England 49 Oakland 26
N.Y. Jets 31 Buffalo 27
Pittsburgh 13 Baltimore 9
San Diego 22 Kansas City 21
Seattle 23 St. Louis 20
Dallas 20 N.Y. Giants 8

THURSDAY'S RESULT
Chicago 27 New Orleans 24 (OT)

TONIGHT'S GAME
Cleveland at Philadelphia

Junior roster out today

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Hockey Canada will announce today its roster for the world junior championship after wrapping up a three-day selection camp last night in Ottawa.

John Tavares, Jamie Benn and Tyler Ennis were the leading scorers in three intra-squad scrimmages.

Tavares, an Oakville, Ont., native who helped Canada win gold at last year's world junior championship, piled up four goals and an assist.

Benn, a Dallas Stars draft choice, had three goals and an assist, while Tyler Ennis, a Buffalo Sabres first-rounder, had a goal and four assists.

Brett Sonne and Jordan Eberle had two goals and an assist each.

Head coach Pat Quinn will announce the roster today at 9:15 a.m. MST at a press conference at SensPlex in Kanata, Ont.

Thirty-eight players were invited to the selection camp, and 22 will be named to the team.

The world junior starts Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa. Canada has won four consecutive gold medals at the event.

NFL Cowboys ride over Giants

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Fullback Deon Anderson of the Dallas Cowboys celebrates his touchdown against the New York Giants last night. Dallas handed New York its second straight loss, 20-8.

Avery done in Dallas

The Dallas Stars have decided that suspended forward Sean Avery will not return to the team.

Avery was suspended by the NHL for six games without pay earlier this month for crude comments he made in Calgary to members of the media regarding his ex-girlfriends dating other hockey players, namely Flames defenceman Dion Phaneuf.

Sean Avery

The 28-year-old antagonist was eligible to return to the club yesterday after the six-game ban expired, but the club and representatives for Avery determined it was not possible for the player to rejoin his teammates.

"Sean needs to focus on his own well-being while the Stars hockey team must focus on playing hockey and competing for a playoff spot," said Stars co- general manager Brett Hull.

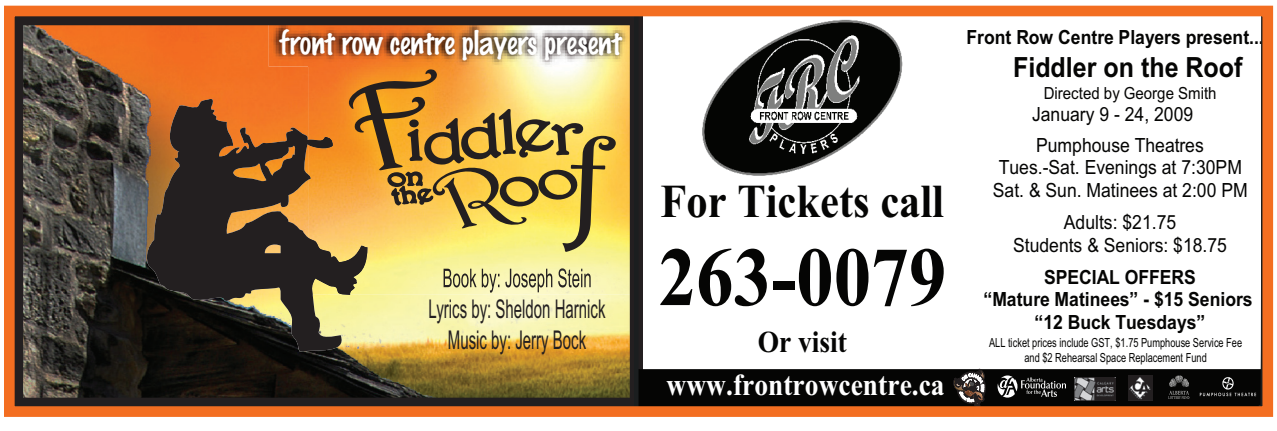
Avery, who agreed to seek professional anger-management treatment after the incident, was in the first year of a four-year, $15.5 million deal.

The Stars have said they will not challenge the contract under the conduct clause and will instead try to help Avery find another home in hockey.

"We do care about Sean and want what is best for him," said Hull. "We've agreed to do what we can to help find him a place to play hockey once he addresses his personal issues."

"The message here is: no distractions," Hull added.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



New Brunswick economic stimulus plan focuses on college investments
The New Brunswick government rolled out the first in a series of new capital investments intended to stimulate the economy. Post Secondary Education is the focus of significant investments, including a $35-million community college in Edmundston and nearly $45-million worth of community college facilities in Saint John. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Keeping income

Post-secondary students in Ontario on social assistance will get to keep any employment income they earn, according to the provincial government's new anti-poverty strategy released last week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Party on Wayne Co., party on Garth Ltd.

Despite economic downturn and mounting losses, holiday cheer prevails at some companies

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

While the economic outlook this festive season might be frightful, most office holiday parties will still be delightful according to a recent poll.

In the poll conducted by Harris/Decima for Workopolis, an online career-solutions company, seven out of 10 holiday party decision-makers surveyed in Canada said they will spend the same amount on festivities as they have in past years.

Only 11 per cent of those decision makers said they'll be cancelling the party altogether.

"I think we still want to thank our employees and still want to tell them what a great job they've done."
Workopolis President Pat Sullivan

Pat Sullivan, president of Workopolis, said given the current economy, they were surprised to find that 68 per cent of employers said they would not be cutting back on party costs at all.

"Although the economic conditions are difficult, I think we still want to thank our employees and still want to tell them what a great job they've done," Sullivan said.

To maintain company morale during tough economic times, Sullivan said, a festive holiday party might be even more crucial this year than ever before.

While 53 per cent of party organizers said they have not considered any cost-cutting measures, 17 per cent said they plan to cut out some of the holiday cheer: One in five said they would plan for less expensive entertainment or venues; 15 per cent said they would hold the party on company premises to cut costs; 13 per cent said they would hold the party on a weeknight rather than the weekend; 12 per cent said they would invite employees only and not include significant others; and nine per cent said they would hold the party during the day rather than the evening.

And as for employee thoughts on the holiday party being scaled back, 62 per cent said they would understand.

Regardless of the economic landscape, however, a trend that seems to be emerging is for companies not to offer an office holiday party at all.

General Motors, for example, told Metro they did away with the annual event long before the current economic downturn.

"That's something we haven't done on a broad scale for a number of years," said Patty Faith, manager of media relations for General Motors Canada.

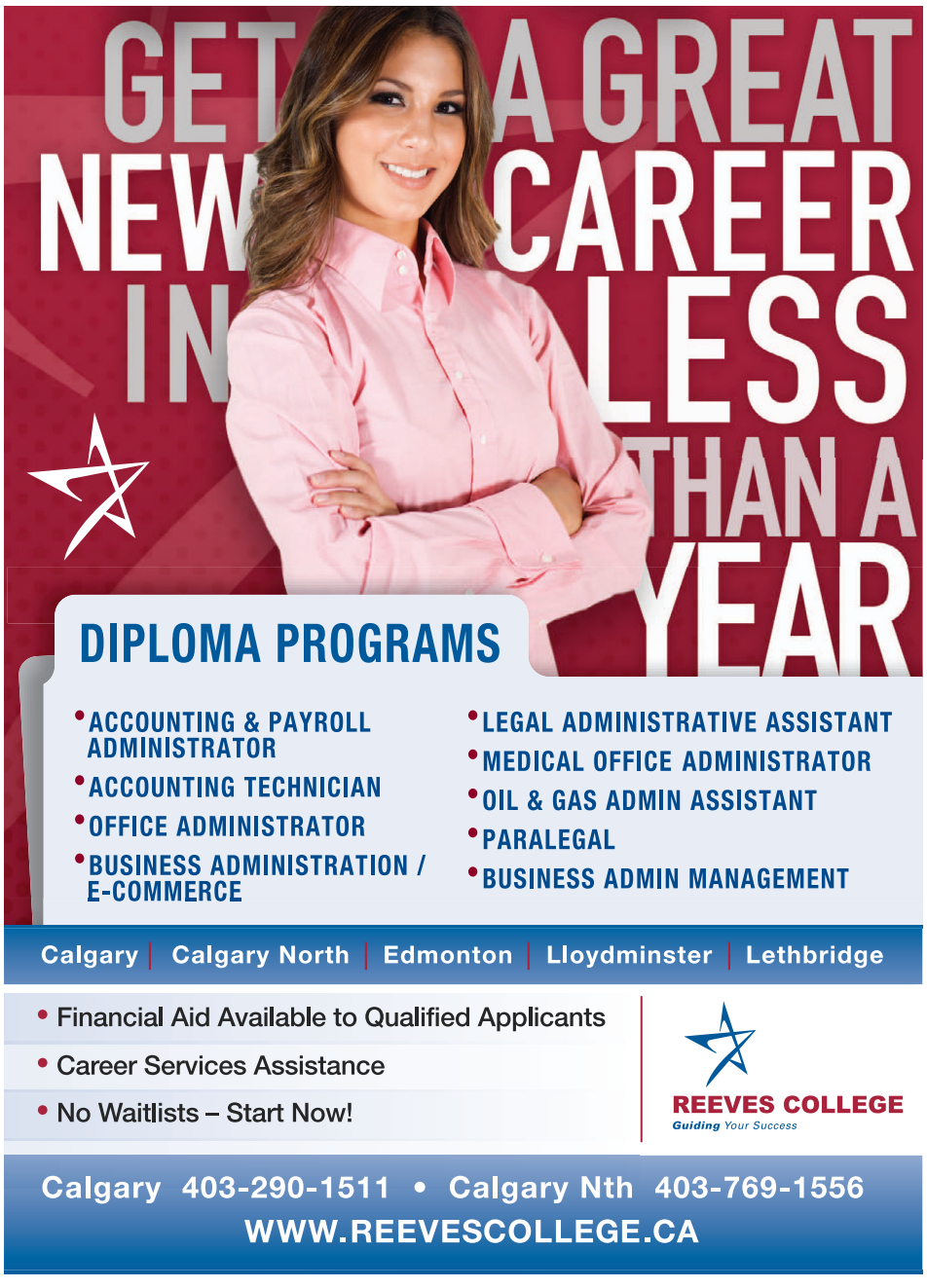
The company chooses to spend its time and money on community charities instead, she said.

As for Workopolis itself, they're holding their holiday festivities in January.

"The timing coincides with our sales conference, so that employees from our eight offices across the country have the opportunity to see each other and celebrate the year's successes," Sullivan said.

He added that the company will spend about the same as last year on their holiday celebration.

The Workopolis poll, conducted between Nov. 6 and 10, surveyed a sample of 617 working Canadians by phone, of which 149 are involved with financial decisions regarding workplace holiday parties and 443 are not.



Water Cooler Gossip offers guidance on life after graduation
McMaster University's Career Services has launched a student-written blog called Water Cooler Gossip, which follows the academic life of Michael Pelt in his last year as an undergraduate student at the university. METRO NEWS SERVICES

From Space Invaders to working for NASA

OddJobs

When his parents said he couldn't play Space Invaders, Arn Hyndman programmed his own version of the game.

Recently, Arn Hyndman drove from Toronto to Ottawa with a work colleague for a meeting. As research and development technologists with Nortel Networks (the company calls them architects), the two didn't chat about the company's stock price or office gossip, they riffed on ideas.

"We were just shooting the breeze. We're inspired by challenges that we see ourselves in the world around us," Hyndman says. They came up with 10 different ideas for possible new technology projects.

It isn't just idle talk. They'll eventually get to make some of these ideas happen.

Hyndman, who's now 37, began inventing technology a young teen on Vancouver Island. His parents declared video games like Space Invaders off limits so, using the family's rudimentary computer, Hyndman designed his own version of the popular game.

It wasn't perfect, but it kept him and his friends amused for awhile. He kept writing programs and then studied computer science at the University of British Columbia. He was eventually hired as a junior developer at Nortel in Ottawa. The company helped finance his masters in software engineering (he minored in human computer interaction) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

There, he and his classmates solved a problem for NASA: There was a six-second delay between moving the joystick of the remote control for the lunar rover and the thing actually moving, so astronauts would over-steer and even crash it. Hyndman helped invent a new monitor that would predict where the rover would go in real time.

Back at Nortel, Hyndman went on to get patents for various inventions: One that helps compatibility between network devices and their management system, and another that enables you to ID yourself while using a wireless device so you can login or make purchases.

Currently, he's chief architect on a project called web.alive. It will allow people to talk on the web using live voice and 3-D avatars. An alternative to video conferencing, its main use will be for virtual business meetings.

Hyndman spends his days working on the project but during coffee breaks and over lunch and in the hallways, he chats with other architects — there are about 20 at Nortel — about technology problems and possible solutions for fixing them: "We just throw around ideas all the time."

The Lowdown

Salary: $100,00 to $200,000
Education: A degree in computer science or computer engineering
Worst part of the job: "About 30 per cent of the way into a project, you get 90 per cent of the idea working. Then there's a long curve of polishing and drudgery."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

Skills to keep to lead teams of designers

Keeping morale and productivity high within creative departments can pose a challenge, particularly in the current economic environment.

A new survey of design professionals outlines the most essential traits for today's creative leaders, as well as specific actions firms can take to retain creative staff and prepare them to assume greater responsibility.

Some highlight include:

- **OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND ADAPTABILITY** were cited as two of the most valuable traits of a creative manager, surpassing traditional attributes such as patience and loyalty.
- **MORE THAN FOUR OUT OF 10** (44 per cent) respondents rated their leaders "fair" or "poor" at developing work environments that support risk-taking and exploration.
- **ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT** of respondents said "doing more with fewer resources" will be the greatest priority for creative leaders in the coming year.
- **LESS THAN HALF** respondents said their firms are taking steps to identify and prepare staff members to move into managerial roles. The report, Profile of the New Creative Leader, was developed by The Creative Group.

"Effective leadership skills change in relation to the challenges teams face," said Megan Slabinski, executive-director of The Creative Group. "Our goal with this project was to explore which traits are most necessary in the current environment, as well as how those qualities are being cultivated within creative organizations."

ADAPTABILITY

As business needs fluctuate and companies shift strategies, creative leaders must be able to adapt and help team members do the same. Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents rated open-mindedness and adaptability among the top five traits most desired in a creative leader.

These attributes surpassed more traditional qualities such as patience and loyalty, which were cited by 11 per cent and eight per cent of those polled, respectively. When it comes to the challenges creative leaders face, finding time to strategize versus attending to day-to-day tasks ranked at the top with 47 per cent of the response.

MOTIVATING ON A BUDGET

The research demonstrated that simple acknowledgement of strong work can go a long way toward keeping staff motivated: Communicating successes (74 per cent) and providing recognition at staff meetings ranked among the most effective ways to acknowledge employee achievements.

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Dark Knight sets DVD record

The Dark Knight has set a new record after DVD sales soared to nearly 3 million in the U.S., Canada and Britain — three days after its release Tuesday. The Batman film has so far grossed more than $996 million US worldwide. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment

Oscar host

Actor Hugh Jackman will be the host of the 2009 Academy Awards, organizers have announced.

BBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

The renaissance man

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

It's taken Q-Tip nine years to release The Renaissance, the follow up to his 1999 solo debut Amplified.

"I haven't been sitting around doing nothing, I promise," says the Queens, New York rapper best known as one third of eternally cool, legendary '90s hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest. "I'm always in the studio. Always."

The reason we haven't heard the fruits of this recording labour is, as Tip nonchalantly puts it, he's been "going though a couple of things with record labels." More specifically, Arista shelved his original sophomore effort Kamaal the Abstract, claiming it was too obscure and not commercial enough. But that was the past, and last month, the man who was born Jonathan Davis finally had a new product to push.

"I was a little bit nervous," admits the 37-year-old about coming out with an album after almost a decade. "But I liked (the music) and I feel like people trust me for my taste."

His taste has lately been veering to older greats such as Stevie Wonder, Prince, Miles Davis and The Clash, rather than what's rotating on the radio.

As a result, The Renaissance, a mix of his signature smooth nasal flow over jazzy beats and live instruments is a refreshing throwback to a purer time in hip hop. It's mellow, but with enough boom bat to get your head bobbing.

The lyrics, however — dealing with war, the economy and even in-cluding excerpts taken from one of Barack Obama's speeches — are very now. He says it's serendipitous that The Renaissance, was released on the same day Obama was elected president.

"We have a socio-political renaissance with this new presi-dent, and I feel like we're in the middle of an artistic renaissance," Tip excitedly rattles off his theory. "People are looking for more value in their music, in literature, in film, theater, just all across, people are looking for taste. And the reason why is because the Internet has leveled the playing field, and shown everybody the different permutations of things. And because of that, people's tastes are starting to get better, cooler and they're finding interesting things. It's a great time," he says coming up for air. "And I'm just happy to be able to offer this now."

The Renaissance is the follow up to Q-Tip's solo debut Amplified. UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

weekend box office

1. **The Day the Earth Stood Still:** $31 million US
2. **Four Christmases:** $13.3 million
3. **Twilight:** $8 million
4. **Bolt:** $7.5 million
5. **Australia:** $4.3 million
6. **Quantum of Solace:** $3.8 million
7. **Nothing Like the Holiday:** $3.5 million
8. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** $3.3 million
9. **Milk:** $2.6 million
10. **Transporter 3:** $2.3 million

REUTERS

In brief

MUSIC Metallica, Pearl Jam and My Morning Jacket are among the artists featured on Live From Bonnaroo 2008, due out January on DVD. **REUTERS**

Stone's next documentary will be Chavez
Filmmaker Oliver Stone's next movie will be a documentary about Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. Stone has already started work on the film, which he kicked off after visiting the leader back in February. **IMDB.COM**

Oscars tap Jackman

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

GETTY IMAGE

Actor Hugh Jackman

AND THE WINNER IS: After years of labouring to produce the least watchable two-plus hours of television a top-flight group of industry professionals can put together with the biggest stars in the business at their fingertips, the people behind the Oscars have decided to do an about-face on their longstanding policy on hosts and hire a movie star whose biggest role is in a comic book franchise, and whose latest big-budget epic flopped in the theatres.

There will be no Billy Crystal or Steve Martin or Whoopi Goldberg striving but failing to goose some pacing into the glamourous torpor that is the Academy Awards this February. After rumours of a big change in the works, the show's producers announced that Hugh Jackman would be their choice to host the 81st Academy Awards.

"He also has style, elegance and a sense of occasion," the show's producers, Bill Condon and Laurence Mark said in a joint statement on Friday. "Hugh is the ideal choice to host a celebration of the year's movies — and to have fun doing it."

Jackman had better also have a cattle prod to move along long-winded winners and one hand on the volume knob of the space-time continuum to quicken the show's pace as it inevitably bogs down along the time-honoured Via Dolorosa of musical numbers, awards presentations and forelock-tugging tributes to the industry's long-expired golden age.

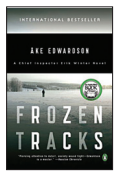
NOTHING TO GIVE: The people behind American Idol have decided to forget about the show's charitable fundraiser, Idol Gives Back, for at least this upcoming season, apparently concerned that viewers would be clutching their pocket books tighter during a recession.

"There will be no Idol Gives Back," was the curt summation in an internal memo issued after a meeting of Fox's programming council, and leaked on *mjsbigblog.com*, an unofficial Idol web site, last week.

Also rumoured was fewer open-call audition episodes, the return of Wild Card Week, and more Hollywood semi-finals, in addition to an expansion of the finalists to 36 from 24, and more behind-the-scenes footage of the contestants, injecting more reality and less talent show into Idol.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Detective tracks bizarre trail

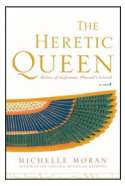


Frozen **Tracks**

Author: Åke Edwardson
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Price: $16.50 (Paperback)

Acclaimed Swedish detective fiction writer Åke Edwardson returns with Frozen Tracks, his third novel to win the Best Swedish Crime Novel Award from the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy. Frozen Tracks revives Edwardson's topically named detective Erik Winter character, who is taxed with connecting two sets of contrasting crimes in southwestern Swedish city Gothenburg. By day, a stranger is luring nursery children with candy to his car, before they return, visibly unharmed while by night, university students are being brutally attacked and left with the same weapon mark. Winter must solve the bizarre trends while trying not to let his own tie to the crimes influence his judgment.

BookPicks



The Heretic **Queen**

Author: Michelle Moran
Publisher: Crown Publishers
Price: $27.95 (Hardcover)

A palace fire in Ancient Egypt symbolizes the end of an empire and the start of a new one in American author Michelle Moran's sophomore novel, The Heretic Queen. Nefertari is the only person to survive the blaze that killed the royal family of the Eighteenth Dynasty. The niece of Nefertiti, the former queen, should enjoy a natural progression to power but publicly held opinion about her aunt as a heretic stops the girl in her tracks. When she falls in love with Ramesses II, crown prince of the respected court of Pharaoh Seti I, new and old ways clash as Nefertari struggles to find solace. **BRIAN COULTON /FOR METRO CANADA**

In **brief**

DEATH Model Bettie Page, one of America's most photographed pin-up girls during the 1950s, died in Los Angeles last Friday from pneumonia, her agent said. She was 85. Page was a ubiquitous sight during the 1950s, propelled to stardom when she posed for Playboy as Miss January 1955. Soon her image was gracing playing cards, record albums and bedroom posters across the country.

TELEVISION A former employee sued Top Chef TV show judge Tom Colicchio in federal court Friday for allegedly not paying some of his restaurant workers minimum wages, overtime and tips from customers. **REUTERS**

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Kenya Hunt

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CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/15/08 primetime	267	351	- ACCESS	Arts & Minds	Arts & Minds	Stargate Atlantis		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Two/Half Men	Samantha Who	Arts & Minds
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Two-Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	I Want a Dog-Charlie Brown		20/20 (N)		
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Grinch-C'mas	Frosty	The Border (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		My Own Worst Enemy		Heroes "Duality" (N)		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Rita Rocks	Rita Rocks	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Antarctique	La Petite vie	La Petite Séduction (N) (SC)		Hauts		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	DTV Special	The Doctors		Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (N)
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		'Allo, 'Allo!	Chronicles	Antiques Roadshow (N)		Holiday Train	Richard Tucker Opera Gala	
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Royal Riders (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Royal Riders
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "Duality" (N)		Worst Enemy
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Paid Program
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	(6:30) NFL Football Cleveland Browns at Philadelphia Eagles.					SportsCentre		Motoring 2009	Billiards
	408	418	27 net	Flames Week	Simply	Saturday Night Poker		Hockey Central	Simply	Sportsnet Connected		Best-Sports
	410	403	30 SCORE	(7:15) WWE Monday Night Raw				(9:15) Score Tonight		WWE Monday Night Raw		
	411	457	44 OLN	Mantracker		Departures "Thailand"		Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	48 SPEED	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car
family	552	543	20 YTV	*Merry Christmas, Drake & Josh* (2008, Comedy) Drake Bell.				*Scrooged* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.				Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	The Nuttiest Nutcracker		Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country	Gone Country		Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Max & Ruby	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Daniel Cook	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	Final 24		Name Is Earl	How I Met	How I Met	Worst Week	News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	(6) *The Road to Christmas*		Friends	Will & Grace	what's cooking		*Under the Mistletoe* (2006, Drama)		
	521	560	24 TLC	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (N)		Wealth Hunters (HDTV)		Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Wealth Hunters
	603	561	25 FOOD	Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant Makeover		Challenge Luau menus.		Good Eats
	615	520	26 A&E	Intervention "Janet" (N)		Manhunters	Manhunters	The First 48 (HDTV)		Intervention "Tom"		Intervention
	617	522	32 SHOW	Prime Suspect 7		Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl
	601	562	33 SLICE	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		Trading Sp
	-	633	34 ENC2	(6:45) *Final Analysis* ★★★ (1992, Suspense)				*Malice* ★★ (1993, Suspense) Alec Baldwin, Nicole Kidman.				*Wild Things*
	520	505	35 DISC	Dirty Jobs		Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet		Dirty Jobs		Worst Driver
	620	523	36 BRAVO	White Boots	Rumpelzwitter	Dance Atlantic	Dance With Me	Law & Order		Without a Trace		*Minus*
	294	650	40 WPCH	(6) *A Walk to Remember*		Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	*A Walk to Remember* ★★ (2002, Romance)		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham
	-	539	42 TCM	(6) *Guys and Dolls* ★★★ (1955)			(8:45) *Hamlet* ★★★★ (1948, Drama) Laurence Olivier, Jean Simmons, Basil Sydney.					
	628	584	43 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		I Bet You Will	MANswers	CSI: NY "All Access"		Trek: Voyager
	522	516	45 HIST	Underworld Histories		NCIS "Under Covers"		Battle 360		Underworld Histories		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains		Eureka		Stargate SG-1		Lost		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *A Christmas Carol*		(8:15) *Prancer* ★★ (1989, Fantasy) Sam Elliott, Rebecca Harrell.					(10:45) *A Christmas Carol*	
	619	525	49 TROP	News Show	News Show	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap
	600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Berman's Call	Money Talks	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums	In Dreams	Judging Amy		Commander
	269	350	93 APTN	MYTV Hip hop.	The Mix	La Voix Mechif	Metcom	Nedaa: Your Eye on the Yukon		Suaangan	Sharing Circle	Cowboy C'try
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	It Will Be Difficult to Love		Marimar		Pinoy-Entertain
	571	581	100 MMM	Where You At	Back In	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Party of Five		Don't Forget
	570	580	101 MM	MuchTopTens		On Set: T.I.	The NewMusic	MuchVibe		Live in the Lot: Fall Out Boy		MuchOnDem
	581	566	102 MTV	Super Sweet	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live	MTV News	A Double Shot of Love		The Hills

critics'corner

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
This 1966 Dr. Seuss animated classic teaches the value of giving, caring and having a non-materialistic Christmas. Boris Karloff's rich voice just adds to the feeling of being surrounded by a warm blanket this time of year. 8 PM on CBRT

Intervention
This show has struck a chord with viewers, who have kept it on the air for several seasons. Tonight, it starts a new one with the story of Janet, whose psychic scars from childhood sexual abuse and bullying drove her into an early marriage to a drug dealer ... and her own drug and alcohol problems. Today, her drinking is out of control. 7 PM on A&E

Frosty the Snowman
Jackie Vernon provides the voice of Frosty. Frosty comes to life when a magician's hat lands on his head. With the help of some children, he heads for the North Pole before he melts. But he is pursued by the magician, who wants his hat back. Billy De Wolfe supplies the voice of the magician, and Jimmy Durante narrates. 8:30 PM on CBRT

Rashad speaking for Jenny Craig
Phylicia Rashad, who is best know for her role as Clair Huxtable on The Cosby Show, is the latest actress to be tapped as a spokeswoman for Jenny Craig. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Tara's in rehab

HEALTH Actress Tara Reid is in rehab, People.com reports.

"Tara Reid has checked herself into Promises Treatment Center. We appreciate your respect to her and her family's privacy at this time," the actress' rep Jack Ketsoyan told People.

Ketsoyan would not reveal what Reid, 33, is being treated for.

A friend of Reid says she headed to the treatment facility on Tuesday.

"Her friends and family are supportive of her decision," said the friend. "She checked in herself — it was her decision."

It is unclear if Reid will spend the holidays at Promises.

In an interview in October, Reid told People she was a "social drinker" who enjoyed an occasional glass of wine with friends.

Asked if she was ever tempted to fall back into old habits, Reid said: "No. I've done it. Trust me. I've done enough for a lifetime of everything."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Carey's video 'perfect' proposal

ENGAGEMENT Pop star Mariah Carey forced her husband Nick Cannon to propose twice so she could capture the "perfect moment" on film, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Carey made her Cannon get down on one knee again, a day after his initial surprise proposal.

"The next day, he took me on a helicopter ride around the Empire State Building," she says. "He got down on one knee and proposed again — someone was filming us this time because I decided I wanted a record of this perfect moment."

The recording came as a change of heart for the star, who had initially decided to keep the intimate moment private. When she first discovered the 15-carat diamond ring hidden in a candy wrapper, she ran to turn off a video camera so she could secretly celebrate. "I feel like everything in my life is always on film and I wanted this moment to be private. And I was so happy that I cried," Carey says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dane dismisses Knight rumours

TELEVISION Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane has blasted reports T.R. Knight has quit the show, insisting he is still shooting scenes, imdb.com reports. Rumours have circulated that Knight is to leave the medical drama, but Dane is adamant he's heard nothing from producers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kanye the intern?

FASHION Kanye West is to embark on a fashion internship in London, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The rapper is reportedly so determined to carve out a successful career designing clothes he is willing to start from the bottom and has been writing to fashion houses in Europe — including Louis Vuitton on London's Bond Street — asking for experience.

"I'm going to go and take an internship and just do something that's like completely normal, and just rap at the weekends or something," West says.

Designer Raf Simons confirmed West had approached him about an internship, but admitted he was unsure whether to take him on.

"I was blown away from the planet when he told me. I know he's very serious about this … But how can I imagine him being my intern? It's a very extreme situation," Simons says.

West is working on his Pastelle clothing line, which is set to debut next year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Federline praises Spears

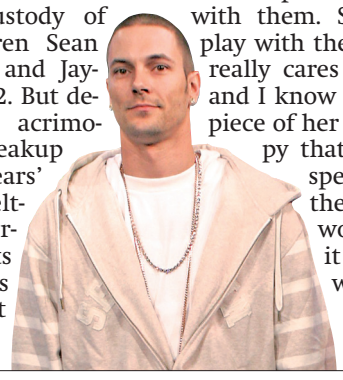
PARENTING Kevin Federline has praised his ex-wife Britney Spears' parenting skills, insisting the singer is a "great" mom, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Federline split from the pop star in 2006, and was awarded custody of their children Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2. But despite their acrimonious breakup and Spears' public meltdown, Federline insists the Spears is a brilliant mother.

"I haven't been around her too much in the last couple of years but other than that, she's a great mother. Really hands-on with the kids," he tells Hello magazine.

"She spends a lot of time with them. She loves to play with them a lot. She really cares about them and I know they're a big piece of her life. I'm happy that they get to spend time with their mother. I wouldn't have it any other way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Walsh's whirlwind romance over

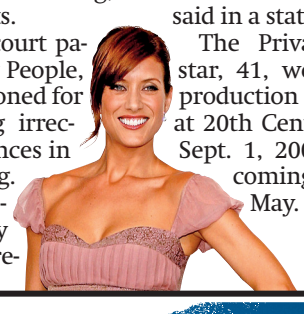
DIVORCE Actress Kate Walsh and her husband, Alex Young, are divorcing, imdb.com reports.

According to court papers obtained by People, Young, 37, petitioned for a divorce, citing irreconcilable differences in his Nov. 22 filing.

"The couple remain on friendly terms and sincerely hope the media will respect their privacy during this difficult time," the pair said in a statement.

The Private Practice star, 41, wed Young, a production co-president at 20th Century Fox, on Sept. 1, 2007, after becoming engaged in May.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Gwyn, Chris' marriage 'safe'

MARRIAGE Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's marriage is safe and strong, according to the Oscar winner's close pal, chef Mario Batali, imdb.com reports.

Paltrow has been spotted partying in the U.S. with her pop star friend Madonna, while Martin tours the U.K. with his band Coldplay, prompting rumours their five-year marriage is in trouble.

Reports last week even suggested the couple planned to spend Christmas together in London in a bid to save their relationship.

But Batali, who shot a TV cookery show with Paltrow in Spain this summer, insists there's no truth to the rumours.

"Not true. I see them all the time. I don't think they're having problems," he tells Ok! magazine. Batali adds the pair's kids, Apple and Moses, help to keep their marriage strong.

"If you meet their kids, their kids are cool," he says. "Their kids have the fascination with new and open-eyed experiences. They're delightful. Which means they're being taken care of at home by their parents. That's the key."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Johansson refutes quotes

PEOPLE Fans might have guessed that Ryan Reynolds had a romantic side, but not because his wife Scarlett Johansson said so, E! News Online reports.

A rep for the star has lashed out at Cosmopolitan's U.K. edition, calling its January cover story on Johansson an "obvious attempt ... to gain monetarily by misinforming their readers.

Not only were marriage-related quotations attributed to Johansson "wholly fabricated," but Johansson "has at no point granted U.K. Cosmopolitan an interview, and she has never discussed her personal relationships with the publication," her rep said in a statement.

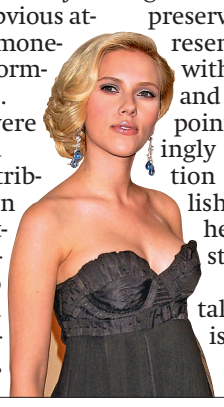
So where did the quotes come from?

Not Johansson, according to her camp.

"Ms. Johansson, who goes to great lengths to preserve an authentic representation of herself with respect to her fans and the media, is disappointed to see a seemingly reputable publication inexplicably publish a work of fiction at her expense," the statement continued.

Legal action will be taken, her rep promised.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Gossip Girl stars engaged, report says

RELATIONSHIPS Gossip Girl star Leighton Meester and her beau, Sebastian Stan, are taking the next step, PageSix.com reports.

A source close to the starlet say the couple are engaged, and they made the announcement on their "secret" Facebook pages. METRO NEWS SERVICES

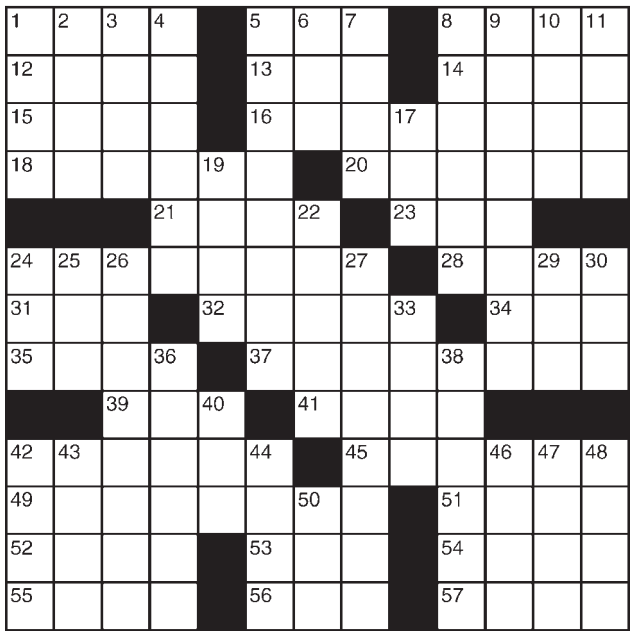
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Today Sunny -23 C / -29 C
Tuesday Flurries -7 C / -22 C
Wednesday Flurries -16 C / -17 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Saxophone range
5 Nov. follower
8 Impale
12 Benefit
13 "— Yankee Doodle Dandy ..."
14 Ocean motion
15 Farmland measure
16 Ross and backup
18 Looseleaf-paper holder
20 Lucky dice rolls
21 Prison, in Portsmouth
23 Shriner's cap
24 2007 comedy movie
28 Nary a soul
31 — out a living
32 Le Pew and Le Moko
34 Convent dweller
35 Catherine — -Jones
37 Quash
39 Tokyo's old name
41 Actress Gilpin
42 Straying
45 Some hosiery
49 Imagined
51 Press
52 Map
53 Past
54 One billionth (Pref.)
55 Longings
56 Director Howard
57 Radiate

Crossword down

1 Common rhyme scheme
2 Places
3 Undecided
4 Nervous
5 Strips
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 Uppercase
8 Spielberg or Bochco
9 Eastern or Pacific, e.g.
10 Mideast gulf
11 Harry's first lady
17 Ump
19 O.K. Corral VIP
22 Drink, as a puppy might
24 "— you!"
25 Guitar's island kin
26 Barrie boy
27 Trust
29 Greek consonants
30 Navy rank (Abbr.)
33 Agile
36 Tweaks
38 Angering
40 Yoko of music
42 Catch sight of
43 Hold the scepter
44 Despot
46 Exam format
47 Admonition to Nanette
48 Winter forecast
50 Id counterpart

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

				9		7	2	5
8	2		3	5			9	
						1		
			8					7
3	5		4		2		1	9
1					6			
		3						
	1			8	3		4	6
7	8	9		6				

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

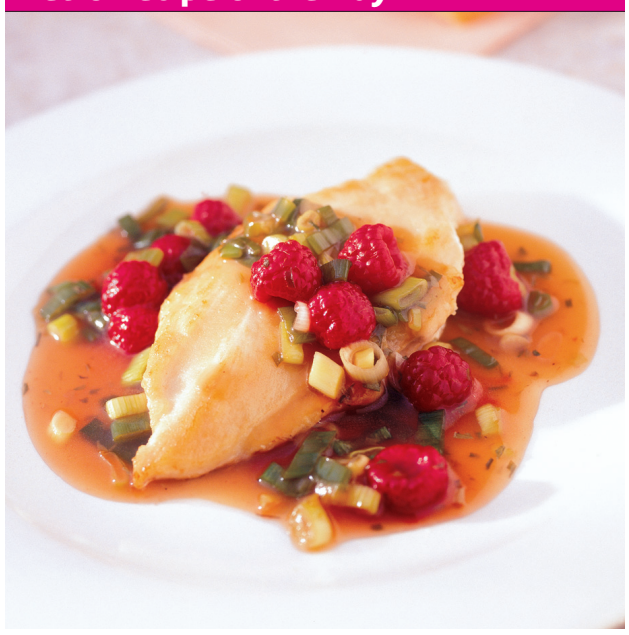
P	A	R	■	D	O	C	S	■	S	A	K	E
I	D	I	■	E	X	I	T	■	C	L	O	G
P	A	P	A	B	E	A	R	■	O	L	I	O
S	M	A	R	T	Y	■	I	P	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	E	■	P	E	P	P	E	R
A	L	T	A	R	■	F	E	Z	■	E	R	E
T	O	R	Y	■	C	O	D	■	B	R	I	E
O	D	A	■	W	A	X	■	C	A	M	E	L
P	I	P	P	I	N	■	V	O	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	N	A	■	A	R	M	A	D	A
B	R	A	N	■	P	U	P	P	Y	D	O	G
B	A	L	I	■	E	R	O	S	■	E	V	E
C	H	I	C	■	S	I	R	E	■	N	E	D

3	8	9	1	7	5	6	4	2
6	5	4	2	3	8	1	7	9
7	1	2	9	6	4	5	8	3
1	6	8	5	4	2	9	3	7
4	7	5	3	9	1	8	2	6
9	2	3	6	8	7	4	1	5
8	4	6	7	5	3	2	9	1
2	9	7	4	1	6	3	5	8
5	3	1	8	2	9	7	6	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Raspberry Chicken Breasts

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/2 pounds/750 g)
2 tbsp (25 mL) flour
4 scallions, thinly sliced
4 tsp (20 mL) sugar
1/3 cup (75 mL) raspberry vinegar or red wine vinegar
3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken broth
1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried tarragon
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) cornstarch blended with 1 tbsp (15 mL) water
1/2 pint (550 mL) raspberries

METHOD:
1. In large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Dredge chicken in flour, shaking off excess. Add chicken to pan and sauté 4 minutes per side or until golden brown. With slotted spoon, transfer chicken to plate.
2. Add scallions to pan and cook 1 minute or until soft. Add sugar and cook 4 minutes or until sugar has melted and is amber in colour. Add vinegar and bring to a boil.
3. Add broth, tarragon and salt, and bring to a boil. Return chicken to pan, reduce to simmer, cover and cook 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
4. Transfer chicken to dinner plates. Return sauce to a boil, whisk in cornstarch mixture and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute or until sauce is slightly thickened. Stir in raspberries. Spoon sauce over chicken.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A banking issue unnerves a leader. Someone will spare your feelings. Don't protect yourself from reality.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An optimistic person will give you hope. Your sincere commitment will impress a demanding man. Give your self-esteem a pep talk.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Have a good excuse handy if you're accused of being tricky. A dream makes you feel vague and unmotivated. Waste some time with fools.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It's a good time for unusual solutions. An amusing person wants to meet you. A manager wants you to help to stabilize a situation.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You can value the advice offered by a rude person. Take steps to secure your financial position. A matter must be dealt with now.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't reveal your identity to a mistrustful cyber-pal. A comical man chuckles when you chat. Someone rejects your wise advice.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A plucky woman uncovers hidden pleasures. Take your time while running errands. A creative associate challenges your intelligence.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
A big-hearted man doesn't want to intimidate you. Being in the wrong place leads you to a troubled person. A crook tries to cheat someone.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A gossip queen gives an invitation. Reward yourself for your charitable acts. Trust your instincts with fascinating information.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Love and money won't come easily. A friend struggles with a decision. There'll be laughter when you go in the wrong direction.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Refuse to argue with a dishonest person. Be sensitive to a bully's anxious state. A brilliant person will share a heavenly experience.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There's anger due to an older person's deception. Be more aware of emotional undercurrents in public. Don't go on a blind date yet.

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